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Oxford, as well as in England. The Chancellor, we are told, having taken the opinions of all the masters in theology, * for all and by the assent of all,' declared publicly in the schools that Wycliffe's condemned propositions ' were true, though they sounded badly to the ear.'¹

Early in the year 1378, Wycliffe, encouraged by the courteous and sympathetic attitude of the University, appeared at Lambeth before Sudbury and Courtenay, sitting as Papal commissioners. Although he came into court this time without John of Gaunt at his side to * maintain' his case, his position was stronger than at the time of his riotous trial in St. Paul's the year before. Then the English Bishops had been acting within the acknowledged rights of the Church Courts within this country. Now the arrival of the bulls had raised a grave claim of Papal jurisdiction in England, which no one except the Bishops and their followers was willing to admit. Since last year the King's councillors had asked Wycliffe's advice and constituted him their champion against the Pope ; they could not now for very shame abandon him to the enemy. Just before the trial began, Sir Lewis Clifford arrived at Lambeth with a message from the King's mother to the Bishops, forbidding them to take any decided measures against the prisoner. It was not John of G-aunt, but the widow of his rival the Black Prince, who thus interfered. Her late husband, whose memory made her so dear and honourable, Wycliffe regarded as a possible friend to Church reforms, had he but lived.² Her message struck a damp into the hearts of the Papal commissioners. They were not absolutely forbidden to proceed with the examination, but they were absolutely forbidden to act on its results. Although the formalities of a trial were begun, there was no longer question of really sending Wycliffe to Borne. The monastic chronicler abuses the Bishops as time-servers and poltroons. What were the commands of the Princess compared to those of the Vicar of Christ ? But although it was easy for the monks to chatter in the safe seclusion of the writing-room at St. Albans, in the real world outside even the valiant Courtenay shrank from fighting the Pope's battle against all England. Nothing,

¹ *Cont. J5?*«%., 348.

* *Pol. Works*, ii. 417-8.